

CITATION

to accompany the award of the

JOINT MERITORIOUS UNIT AWARD

to

Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation PROVIDE COMFORT

Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation PROVIDE COMFORT distinguished itself through sustained meritorious achievement and continuous superior performance in the largest, most successful relief effort in history. For the period of 1 July 1995 through 31 December 1996, the selfless dedication of the coalition ensured the survival of over 2.7 million people in northern Iraq by providing critical all-source support and ensuring the safe conduct of coalition operations. The operation executed 495 air tasking orders which tasked 12,776 multinational sorties flown by 21 different types of aircraft from four geographically separated locations including 7,704 sorties flown in the tactical area of responsibility. The operation provided critically needed supplies to remote locations including 32,000 metric tons of gypsum, 13.6 million liters of fuel, 8,000 metric tons of cement, 460,000 pieces of spindar building poles and 290 metric tons of rebar. This material enabled the refugees to rebuild their villages and establish some means of livelihood. In addition, over one million dollars worth of urgently required medical supplies together with drilling equipment needed to sink new water wells were provided. Operation PROVIDE COMFORT negotiated contracts to run a land mine awareness program which covered over 400 villages and 450 local schools. Provision of these supplies and services helped meet the immediate needs of the people of northern Iraq and contributed to rebuilding the infrastructure destroyed in past years. Through the Military Coordination Center's forward presence, over 230 villages were visited for medical assessments and monitoring of Iraqi military activity inside the security zone. When Iraqi forces threatened northern Iraq, the Combined Task Force successfully evacuated the Military Coordination Center and Non-Government Organization personnel as well as over 2,000 Kurdish Foreign Service Nationals. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation PROVIDE COMFORT have brought great credit upon themselves, the Department of Defense and the United States of America.